

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERN 04661 131627Z

51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00

IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

SAB-01 SAM-01 /087 W

----- 055065

R 131534Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9968

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONGEN JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 4661

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO, XF, XG, SZ

SUBJECT: ARAB CAMPAIGN AGAINST SWITZERLAND

REF: DAMASCUS 2916

1. IN LIGHT OF SEVERAL PRESS STORIES REPORTING RECENT
ARAB UNHAPPINESS WITH THE SWISS, EMBOFF CALLED ON ALFRED
HOHL (DEPUTY DIRECTOR, AFRO-ASIAN DIVISION FPD TO OBTAIN
DETAILS. HOHL SAID THAT ARABS HAD LAUNCHED ORCHESTRATED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERN 04661 131627Z

CAMPAIGN INVOLVING DEMARCHES IN MOST OF THE ARAB

CAPITALS, CURIOUSLY WITH NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF ALGIERS. DEMARCHES REQUESTED EXPLANATION FOR ALLEGED PRO-ISRAELI SHIFT IN SWISS POLICY AND HINTED AT ECONOMIC RETALIATION IF GOS FAILED TO HEED WARNING. FONMIN GRABER'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT WHO HAPPENED TO BE PRESENT COMMENTEDLY WRYLY THAT SWISS WERE NOW IN THE "DUTCH POSITION" WITH RESPECT TO ARABS.

2. ARAB COMPLAINTS HAVE FOCUSED ON FOUR FOLLOWING POINTS, OF WHICH FIRST TWO WERE THE MORE SERIOUS IN ARAB EYES:

A) SWISS PARLIAMENT'S VOTE TO CUT UNESCO CONTRIBUTION BY 10 PERCENT (PARIS 29601 - NOTAL). GOS ARGUED THAT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONTROL ACTIONS OF PARLIAMENT.

B) PRO-ISRAELI BIAS OF THE SWISS PRESS. GERMAN-SWISS PRESS IN PARTICULAR HAS BEEN HIGHLY INCENSED OVER ARBITRARY MAJORITY ACTION IN UNESCO AND SHARPLY CRITICIZED WISH-WASHY VOTING PATTERN OF SWISS UNESCO DELEGATION. THERE HAS BEEN WAVE OF SYMPATHY FOR ISRAEL AS ANOTHER SMALL COUNTRY VICTIMIZED BY MAJORITY. GOS OFFICIALS SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN THAT GOS DOES NOT CONTROL PRESS.

C) PRIVATE PRO-ISRAEL FUND RAISING DINNER IN GENEVA EARLIER THIS YEAR WHICH MRS. MEIR ATTENDED.

D) RECENT PASSAGE BY SWISS LOWER HOUSE OF BILL PROVIDING FOR FINAL DISPOSAL OF UNCLAIMED WARTIME ASSETS IN SWISS BANKS, MOST OF WHICH PRESUMED TO BELONG TO JEWS WHO DID NOT SURVIVE THE WAR. TWO-THIRDS OF APPROXIMATELY TWO MILLION SWISS FRANC FUND WILL GO TO ASSOCIATION OF SWISS-ISRAELI COMMUNITIES AND ONE-THIRD TO PRIVATE SWISS REFUGEE RELIEF ORGANIZATION IN ZURICH. (LIKELY THAT MEASURE WILL ALSO PASS UPPER HOUSE UNANIMOUSLY AT MARCH 1975 SESSION).

ALTHOUGH ALGERIAN PAPER EL MOUDJAHID REPORTEDLY ALSO CRITICIZED SWISS FOR JOINING IEA, NONE OF DEMARCHES TOUCHED THIS ISSUE, ACCORDING TO HOHL.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS FROM CAIRO, SEC GEN MAHMOUD RIAD OF ARAB LEAGUE ON DECEMBER 11 ASKED ALL ARAB FONMINS IN CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF A UNITED POLICY TOWARD SWITZERLAND. IF NECESSARY, RIAD WOULD CALL FOR EMERGENCY MEETING OF LEAGUE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BERN 04661 131627Z

4. HOHL SAID THAT SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL (I.E. CABINET) WOULD PROBABLY TRY TO DEFLECT ARAB THRUST BY ISSUING STATEMENT THAT WOULD FIRMLY RESTATE TRADITIONAL SWISS NEUTRALITY POLICY IN MIDEAST CONFLICT AND SHARPLY DENY THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY SHIFT IN POLICY. STATEMENT WILL PROBABLY ALSO TRY TO MAKE CLEAR SWISS PRESS FREEDOM, BUT HOHL WILL PROBABLY ALSO TRY TO MAKE CLEAR SWISS PRESS FREEDOM, BUT HOHL SAID THAT IT WAS EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT

IN PRESENT ARAB MOOD TO GET SUCH POINTS ACROSS TO THEM.

DAVIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SANCTIONS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BERN04661
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740363-0184
From: BERN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741238/aaaabgif.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 DAMASCUS 2916
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARAB CAMPAIGN AGAINST SWITZERLAND
TAGS: PORG, OCON, XF, XG, SZ, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005